

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0018]** Access equipment systems 6 aggregate and multiplex the data received from user devices 4. Examples of access equipment systems 6 include digital subscriber line access multiplexer (DSLAM), multiplexers, etc. Data received at access equipment systems 6 are then sent to  ~~routers & telecommunication nodes 12~~. Data from a single access equipment system 6 are typically sent in a specific data format and a specific data rate. For example, the data formats include SONET/SDH (OC3, OC12, OC48, etc.), DS3/E3, Ethernet, Gigabit Ethernet, etc. Data in these formats are also transferred at various data rates, where a fixed data rate is associated with a format. Also, the type of physical connection may limit the data rate in which data is transferred. For example, ATM circuits may transfer data at one rate and SONET networks may transfer data at another rate.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0023]** Data processors 201 include any data processor or data plane configured to transfer data. For example, data processors 201 include switching circuitry components that are included on a printed circuit board. In one embodiment, each data processor 201 includes a number of ports 208 that are used to transfer data from one port 208 to another port 208. For example, data may be transferred from a port 208 in one data processor 201 to a port 208 in the same data processor 201 or to a different data processor 201 in- located in a different slot of shelf 200.